GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4060
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
FREIGHT TRAFFIC
NAGMANI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase effected in passenger fare and freight charges during the last three years;

(b) whether a large amount of revenue earned from freight charges is being spent on passenger amenities;

(c) if so, whether freight traffic, which is the main source of earnings of Indian Railways, is being diverted other means of transport; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railway to ensure that the funds received from freight charges, is not spent on passenger amenities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) The average percentage increase in passenger fare and freight rates during last three years are given below:-

Year	Passenger Fare	Freight rates
1999-00	2.07%	3.23%
2000-01	..	2.47%
2001-02	..	2.02%

(b) to (d) The expenditure on Railways is incurred outof the Railways revenues. No distinction as to thesource of revenue like from freight or passenger earnings etc., is made while incurring the expenditure.

Although the Railways` market share in freight traffic hasdeclined over the years, the quantum of freight traffic carried by the railways has registered a steady growth. However, the decline in market share is not taking place as a result of expenditure being incurred on the passenger amenities. In fact, Railways are taking various measures to further improve the passenger amenities.